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 FM WASHINGTON 250250Z MAY 82  
 TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
 TELEGRAM NUMBER 1897 OF 24 MAY  
 AND TO UKMIS NEW YORK (PERSONAL FOR AMBASSADOR).

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PERSONAL FOR SECRETARY OF STATE.

MY TELNO 1878: FALKLANDS

HAIG HAS JUST TELEPHONED TO SAY THAT HE IS ABOUT TO SEND OFF A PERSONAL MESSAGE TO YOU. HE IS MOST ANXIOUS THAT IT SHOULD BE TREATED AS A PERSONAL MESSAGE AND NOT AS ONE THAT IS GOING TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE INNER CABINET. HE DOES NOT WANT TO CREATE NERVOUSNESS IN LONDON ABOUT HIS INTENTIONS. HE MERELY WANTS TO SEEK YOUR PERSONAL REACTION. HE IS NOT TRYING TO OBTAIN AN OFFICIAL REACTION FROM HMG.

I DO REALIZE HOW SHIFTING AND IRRATIONAL THIS MAY SOUND TO YOU BUT I THINK WE HAVE TO TAKE HAIG AS HE IS; AND, ALLOWING FOR HIS CRYPTIC TERVERSATIONS. I WOULD ASK YOU TO BELIEVE THAT HE IS BASICALLY ON OUR SIDE, HOWEVER MUCH HE MAY AT THE MOMENT BE TRYING TO PROTECT HIS FLANK FROM THE PRO-LATINUS IN THE WASHINGTON ESTABLISHMENT. LET ME ADD ONE FURTHER REFLECTION. I HAVE REPORTED VERY FRANKLY ALL HAIGS OUTPOURINGS. HE HAS WANTED TO TALK TO SOMEONE WHICH IS NOT EASY GIVEN THE CONFLICTS WITHING THE SYSTEM HERE, AND I THOUGH IT RIGHT TO LET YOU HAVE HIS UNBRIDLED THOUGHTS. THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT EVERY TWIST OR TURN OF EMPHASIS SHOULD BE TAKE TOO SERIOUSLY OR LITERALLY. I AM SURE THAT IT IS IN OUR INTEREST THAT HE SHOULD CONFIDE IN US; AND I DO NOT THINK THAT IT WOULD SERVE OUR CAUSE TO BE TOO CENSORIOUS OF HIM FOR SPECULATING ALOUD OR FOR ADVANCING HALF-BAKED IDEAS. HE WILL TAKE PRIVATE COMMENT AND CRITICISM FROM US SUCH AS HE WOULD NOT TAKE FROM HIS OWN PEOPLE. WE MUST OF COURSE ALLOW FOR HIS EGO BUT WE MUST REACT BY KEEPING IT ON OUR SIDE WHERE, BELIEVE ME IT WHOLEHEARTEDLY RESIDES.

HENDERSON

LIMITED  
 HD/PLANNING STAFF  
 HD/EMERGENCY UNIT  
 HD/NEWS D  
 PS  
 PS/FUS  
 MR BULLARD  
 MR GIFFARD

SECRET